

cooperation needs to reach a wider range of individuals at all levels.

Knowledge of Other Countries. If we are to pursue test and evaluation in a global environment, we must first gain an understanding of the organizations, capabilities, and procedures, as well as the cultural character of other countries. As one step in this direction, DOT&E publishes an *International Test Facilities and Ranges Capability Summary*.

The latest issue of this summary is a two-volume, 800-page document detailing T&E capabilities in nine countries: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. This summary continues to grow with participation of additional countries. While this document has proven to be very useful, it is important to also build relationships through personal contacts and to understand cultural differences.

Common Ways of Doing Things.

Working in the global environment is much easier if we have common ways of doing things—if we use the same standards and procedures and share the same sense of what's important and what's not. We already use some common standards in T&E. Military Standard 810 on Environmental Testing is a notable example. Many countries have adopted this standard in their test processes. Of course, much of what is contained in this standard is founded on international work done in NATO and other international organizations and societies. The ITOP program mentioned earlier is another contributor to common ways of doing things.

Legal and Procedural Mechanisms.

International Cooperation needs appropriate structures by which we can work together. In some cases, we may need to start from the top with new legislation. This is rare but it has happened.

In most cases, all we need is an international agreement of some kind such as a Memorandum of Understanding or a Data Exchange Agreement. Some tend to be scared away by the prospect of developing a formal international agreement and the perception that it is a difficult and lengthy process. It is difficult only because it is unfamiliar and the prospect of facing something unfamiliar always looms larger and more difficult than it is.

The challenge for the test and evaluation community is to pursue opportunities in the global environment that are waiting to be exploited.

Editor's Note: Gehrig and Mabanta welcome questions or comments on this article. Contact them at johngehrig@comcast.net or mabantaf@saic.com.

Defense Acquisition University and George Mason University Sign Memorandum of Understanding

In an effort to extend DAU's educational strategic partnerships and leverage learning opportunities, DAU Commandant, Army Col. Ronald C. Flom, and Dee Ann Holisky, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, George Mason University (GMU), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) during a ceremony held at DAU Headquarters, Fort Belvoir, Va., on Aug. 8.

The signing of the MOU establishes a strategic partnership leading to a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree. The MPA program will be available to any member of the DoD Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (AT&L) workforce who meets graduate admissions requirements. A maximum of 12 credits from DAU may be transferred to GMU and applied toward the MPA degree. All transferred DAU courses will be applied toward MPA electives. Students who have not completed the equivalent of 12 credits of graduate-level coursework through DAU will complete the remaining elective credits through GMU coursework.

This strategic partnership provides an important opportunity to meet DoD acquisition education goals and increase the skills, knowledge, and abilities of the DoD AT&L workforce.

For more information about this partnership, contact Wayne Glass, DAU Director for Strategic Partnerships, at Wayne.Glass@dau.mil.



Dee Ann Holisky, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, George Mason University (left), and Army Col. Ronald C. Flom, Commandant, Defense Acquisition University, sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Aug. 8, 2002, formalizing a strategic partnership to pursue educational opportunities.

Photo by Army Sgt. Kevin Moses